

Ordered to duty for year, Security Police 'take care of business'



SrA. Ben Bartlett checks ID as TSgt. Darrin Sargent looks on during last month's drill. (NHANG photo by MSgt. Mike Daigle)

by Lt. Col. John W. Rice, State HQ PAO

If the events of 9/11 taught the nation anything, the need for enhanced homeland security would be primary. No one knows that more than then the men and women of the Wing's Security Police.

Since October, seventy-three of its 77 roster members remain activated. The squadron sent 13 SPs to Andrews Air Force Base near Washington, D.C., for 120 days. That group was recently replaced. Four SP's have served continuously at AMC headquarters at Scott AFB, Ill. The remaining activated men and women provide local base security.

"I can tell you they are taking care of business," says Capt. Richard Hamilton, squadron commander. "They're accomplishing the mission. Their morale, all things considered, is good. They've never once complained about the long days they pull."

And that's a lot of time. Not only are their orders for 365 days, but a 12-month extension is a likely possibility. For Andrews people, workdays with the 89th Security Forces Squadron can stretch to 16 hours due to the size of the

security force. In normal times it takes about 100 police to protect the base. Now that number has swollen to almost 300 per 12-hour shift.

"Because of the size of the posting, our guys report two hours prior to their duty shift," Hamilton explains. "Some leave as much as two hours after their shift since it takes time to turn in weapons when 250 people are involved."

Long hours and long duty tours are nothing new to Security Forces. For unit members scheduled at home station, workdays stretch longer as professional police officers strive to keep up in their civilian positions.

"If you're a police officer in New Hampshire," says Superintendent and Chief Master Sergeant Mark Long. "You have to complete continuing education and other requirements to keep your police credential current. Most of our guys on days off here will work a detail with their civilian police force. But we limit their weekly involvement to 20 hours."

Being on active duty has its professional benefits. Many security police

experience a level of responsibility not previously possible. At Scott, the 375th Security Forces Squadron made MSgt. Louis Currier NCOIC of Training.

"He's doing a great job," says Long.

Mike Mickelonis is a Vehicle NCO, SRA Daryl Dispensa, assistant vehicle NCO and SRA Cassidy Clark works on the flight line with base security. At Andrews, MSgt. Dan Yoder found himself in charge of the day shift, responsible for 150 to 300 Security Police.

"He would never have the opportunity to supervise that many people here," says SMSgt. Mike Sullivan, Chief of Security Police. "Down there, the 89th took a look at the guy and noted he was Chief of Police in Middleton, N.H. They put him to work."

SSgt. John Sable, a full-time Sandown, N.H., police officer and SSgt. Vinton Wallace, a Rochester police officer, both enjoyed rare opportunities at Andrews. Their experiences helped ease the pain of being away from families, not to mention the stress of losing hours of experience on the job in their towns. "You couldn't ask for better NCOs," Sullivan says. "They're dedicated to the mission and to their fellow troops. They epitomize who our troops are."

Please see "Security" page 6

What's Inside?

More ORI information

.....page 3

90 days of change

.....page 4

Fitness news

.....page 5

Troops to teachers

.....page 7

TRICARE update

.....page 8

Commander's Column

by Col. Richard P. Martell

(Editor's note; This month's commander's column is drawn from Col. Martell's speech at the prayer breakfast last month.)



On behalf of the Wing I give special thanks to Cheryl McGinnis, the widow of Tom McGuinness, who was the 1st officer on American Airlines Flt. 11 and to Lt. Col. Jim Ogonowski the brother of John Ogonowski, who was the captain of that same flight, for their joining with us on this occasion. It is an honor to have them attend our Prayer Breakfast, as their loss will forever be included in our prayers. Without a doubt, their lives changed that Sept 11th - as have many of ours.

I'm usually hesitant to speak of myself when addressing our group but today I would like to briefly share my thoughts and feelings about the changes that have impacted all of our lives.

Our last prayer breakfast was on May 6, 2001 - the next day I was to assume the responsibility of becoming the 157th ARW Commander. I sat in the audience and watched Col. Ken Clark doing his usual masterful job addressing our prayer breakfast crowd and thought, "How can I do that?"

The year continued on and my greatest worry was positioning the Wing for its Operational Readiness Inspections. This seemed to be our greatest challenge. until Sept. 11.

That day started out, ironically as our "Day of Caring" - a partnership we have established with United Way. At 8:45 a.m., 1500 members of the unit and the community were all pumped up and ready to go out into our community and give of themselves to help others. Little did we know that already John Ogonowski and Tom McGuinness and their families had already had something precious taken from them - not given.

In the days that followed I watched

both families, as they had to bear the scrutiny of the nation as well as deal with their own loss and grief.

Now I asked myself - "How can they do that?"

With the events of that day, our lives have been greatly impacted. The women & men of the 157th ARW were called to do the duty that we had taken an oath to do. For those of you involved in Operation Noble Eagle - we asked you to protect our homeland - and you did this superbly.

We asked our Army National Guard brethren to protect our airports and make us feel safe there - once again - and this they did magnificently.

We asked many of you to participate in Operation Enduring Freedom to go away from home and seek out those that had brought war to our very doorstep. This you have done proudly and with great success.

In our communities we have come together in a bonding that has been missing for some years. We reached out to comfort those who had suffered loss and to comfort those that needed it as we faced a new, uncertain future.

Now I told myself "yes - we can do that!"

To me this year's prayer breakfast is about coming together. To recognize and celebrate our unification towards a common goal.

This goal is not simply to wage war on those that have injured us. Our goal is to take all of mankind to a new level. A level where we believe that all can be assured of living out their precious lives. A level where people can experience the freedom that we in this country hold so dear. A level where the lessons learned from those who have come before can be passed to those who have yet to come. To build upon everything that is good in this world. To do away with evil. To reach a level worldwide that has never before been attained.

My prayer today is that we start down the road towards this higher level. It will require a steadfast commitment and extreme patience.

To you I say, "This is something we must do".



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The Refueler welcomes articles and ideas that will improve the paper. If you have suggestions for feature or specific articles, please contact the PA office at x3413/3577, or your Unit Public Affairs Representative (UPAR).

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Taking time for prayer



Master of Ceremonies MSgt. Gary Oberg presided over a moving event as the unit gathered for the annual Commander's Prayer Breakfast. Opening remarks by Col. Martell set a tone of reverence (please see the full text of Col. Martell's speech on page 2). Following a hot meal, prepared and served by the 157th Services Flight, guest speaker Chaplain, Col. Cecil R. Richardson brought the crowd to its feet with remarks colored by humor and reverberating with faith. Chaplain Richardson is currently the Command Chaplain, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, Va. (NHANG photos by SrA. Brandy Hebert)

T-SART, SIOP exercises to test unit's ORI readiness

by Lt. Col. John Rice, State HQ PAO

Five year's ago last month, the 157th traveled to Ft. Hood, Tex., for its first-ever deployed ORI. This month the unit dusts off its SIOP and T-SART skills in a two-day exercise designed to prepare the 157th for another ORI in October.

To be sure "dusts off" may not be quite the right words here. Five years ago was a period of relative tranquility. The unit participated in "Deny Flight" enforcing the "no-fly" zone over Bosnia. Kosovo hadn't happened yet. The Wing also responded to periodic threats as Saddam Hussein toyed with UN weapons inspectors. Almost routine stuff compared to the unprecedented demands of Operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle and AEF support. Now comes the ORI.

"Some people might say, 'we can do that, we've been doing it for six months,'" says 157th Commander Col. Richard P. Martell. "But the requirement still exists. We're all proud of what we've accomplished. But now we need to have an attitude that says to the ORI team, 'Come grade us. We'll show you what we can do!'"

To that end, the unit will practice this month while a State Headquarters team evaluates. August's three-day UTA weekend will see the Wing "fine tune" lessons learned. A 15th Air Force team makes a staff assistance visit to watch and critique, replacing the State Headquarters EET.

So what's in store for this weekend?

For starters, you'll need to set the ol' alarm clock earlier as the UTA begins officially at 7 a.m. Saturday morning, as you arrive, simulated message traffic will indicate a build-up of threat activities and impending all-out war. As the day progresses, to preserve the force, our aircraft need to fly to an alternate location.

Most of the Wing will be involved in various capacities to make this happen. Some more than others. The focus will be on operations and logistics. Because all the unit's aircraft simulate being generated, drill's end may be as late as 6 p.m. The Wing's KC-135R's can carry up to a 190,000-pound load. They take on fuel at the rate of about 2,000 pounds a minute.

"We have a time-line to generate aircraft," Martell said. "It's a time-intensive process and the day ends when that's been done."

Sunday's UTA begins and ends at the regular times. The focus now shifts on preparing cargo, building pallets and out-processing 140 members of the TSART team. This group includes UTC's from, among others, operations, maintenance, logistics, communication, intelligence, services and security police.

"We need everyone to be involved," Martell said. "This is a simulation of all-out war and we need to be prepared for that."

As for the added pressure an ORI heaps on an already very busy unit, Martell urges everyone to keep things in perspective.

"We're cognizant that we're trying to balance real world pressures with what we're asking the unit to do here," he explains. "If everyone maintains a good sense of urgency that will go a long way in making sure that the ORI will be a success and that we pass."

90 days of Change for the Air Guard

Editor's note - This story was written by a guardsman deployed to Prince Sultan Air Base (PSAB), KSAServices Squadron, 1 Dec 01 - 25 Feb 02. He is a member of the 121st Services Flight Rickenbacker IAP, Ohio. Although, SMSgt. Bear is a member of Services, his words may be applied to all members.

by: SMSgt. David Bear

When you go on deployment to active duty we, as Air National Guard members need to remember to accept the Active Duty attitudes. You are now attached to the forward location. You're no longer attached to your home unit. You have to utilize your chain of command and use military courtesy as expected by rank.

The Services Flight Chiefs, Superintendent, First Sergeant, Deputy Commander and Services Commander run the Services Squadron. This team makes the decisions. Assist them in getting all the information from your area. Accept the assignment you are given and do the Air National Guard and your home unit proud.

Make sure that you know your proper chain of command. You will be assigned to different job locations and your unit will be divided as needed. If you have an issue or problem, make sure that your section supervisor knows and can help you. Don't go outside your section to the person from your unit to solve this for you. This seemed to happen often because we as Air National Guard members are used to networking within our bases. It will be easier to resolve any conflict by going in your proper chain of command. We have seen many people going outside of this chain. It really only causes more problems and could be resolved at a lower level if handled properly.

We also need to start referring to everyone by his or her rank. I know that in many Guard units we use their first names on a regular basis. The reference by rank is important to structure of the organization you are being attached to. Also when in an office, show respect to any one of higher rank by standing and acknowledging them. Using titles such as Sergeant, Senior, Chief, Sir/Ma'am,

Captain, and Colonel are expected. It seems such a small issue at first but it really helps with gaining respect of the active duty force.

Having a First Sergeant will be an addition that most ANG Services units are not used too. We all have First Shirts, but you will have one assigned for the Services Squadron. The Shirt will handle all people issues and any administrative actions that are needed. Treat this First Sergeant with the respect they deserve. They will be there anytime you need them. They will help and guide you if you have any questions.

Each area has a flight chief assigned to it. At PSAB we had Learning Resource Center (LRC), Recreation and Food Service. You will see some of these positions filled by each AEF. The Food Service Flight Chief is one of two Permanent party positions in the Services Squadron. This is needed to keep the continuity of the food orders/menus moving without any issues in the process. The Superintendent is in charge of all assignments. All transfers of positions must go through the Super first. We had a couple of issues that individuals thought they could go around the system and took it upon themselves to move. This does cause serious problems. The mission will suffer. We ran short on some shifts and had to make others work on their day off to cover for those individuals.

You will be given a job within the Services organization. Services handles many issues on the base here in PSAB. Lodging, Linen Exchange, Fitness, Intramural sports, Outdoor Recreation, Video rental, Morale Phones, Morale Computers, Movie Channels on the local Cable Channels, 4 Dining Facilities, Rations, Escorting TCN's, and Force Management and Plans. You may be assigned to any one of these functions. You are assigned the role before you even arrive. There is little time to train you before the previous AEF leaves. Accept the role you are given and work hard trying to represent the Air National Guard and your state in the

best possible way. Don't be expecting to change jobs during your tour. This is not the time for training, you should have all your training complete before you arrive. You are only here for 90 days. That does seem like a long time for us as Air National Guard members. But it really takes about a month to really learn the job we are doing. Then we try to make it better for the next AEF. And the last month you get ready to go home and ensure that you have everything ready so a smooth transition will take place when you are ready to leave.

I do not know if everyone is aware about the battles we have had in the past with the Active Duty and the attitude they held towards the Air National Guard. Active Duty in the past has treated the Guard as stepchildren. Thinking they could not do the job. In current years the Air Guard has been assisting the Active Duty counterparts in completing the AEF assignments. This has brought a new awareness to our Active Duty Brethren. They have a new found appreciation for many of our Air Guard members. This realization was very apparent as soon as we arrived at PSAB. The Services Squadron is made up of about 85% Air National Guard on this rotation. We have a higher level of maturity available. Our dedication to the mission shows everyday. Active Duty has been treating the Guard with respect everyday. I have also have seen many Guard members try to show off that they are Guard and putting the Active Duty down. I have addressed this whenever it was brought up. If we want respect then we should also give it before we receive the mutual respect that we desire.

You are a representation of the Air National Guard and your home unit. Everything you do during your AEF rotation will be a portrayal of all the Services people in the Air National Guard. One of the best compliments to me was the surprise that any active duty member has upon learning that I am an Air National Guard member and commenting on the professionalism that we display everyday.

More proof that exercise is good for your life

by (Col.) Dr. Mike Miller

Now there's proof that regular exercise leads to a longer, healthier life.

The March 14 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine once again emphasizes the importance of exercise in promoting long-term health.

A study of the relationship between exercise capacity and longevity and the accompanying editorial "Survival of the Fittest" confirms that physically fit men live significantly longer than men do with limited exercise capacity.

This relationship is independent of

other factors such as genetics, weight, smoking history, cholesterol levels and blood pressure.

The study did not include women but the results likely apply to them as well.

Not only does exercise make you feel better and help you be more effective in work and play, but it also increases lifespan. If you are not already exercising regularly, this is one more reason to start.

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard fitness center available to guard members

For those that don't know, there is no charge for guard members at the shipyard fitness center.

The center has an array of cardio and weight training machines, racquetball courts, and regularly scheduled fitness classes. There are also fitness trainers who will set up an individualized program, based upon your needs.

If you have any questions regarding the Fletcher Fitness Center, please contact Marie Abbott at 438-2286.

Col. Clements receives promotion



Col. Roger Clements () was recently promoted to his current rank while serving in Germany. He is shown here in a file photo with Maj. Gen. Joseph Simeone (left) and the Basr commander at Moron, Spain. Col. Clements was assigned to the 157 for ____ years. (NHANG photo)

TB testing protects long-term health status

By TSgt. Susan M. Evans
157th Medical Squadron

In light of recent world events, it has become even more imperative that Tuberculosis tests are conducted yearly on base personnel. With the heightened operations tempo and increased overseas deployments, everyone is at a much higher risk of coming into contact with someone who has active (contagious) TB.

According to statistics provided by the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC), approximately one-third of the world's population is infected with tuberculosis, with the highest rates of infection found in Southeast Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe.

Signs of active TB are typically unexplained weight loss, night sweats, fever and cough lasting longer than two weeks. If you or someone you know exhibits these signs, medical authorities must be notified immediately. There are very effective treatments for this contagious disease.

TB is most commonly spread through the air. When a person with active disease coughs, sings, talks, laughs, or sneezes, the organism is released in droplets that can stay suspended in the air for hours. The disease is spread when someone inhales these TB laden droplets, although, usually, it takes more than just casual contact to contract the disease.

The preferred method of testing for the presence of the TB organism is by a Mantoux or IPPD test. A small amount of inactive virus is placed under the skin to see if the body's immune system reacts. If there is a reaction, this is a positive sign that the person may have been exposed to TB at some point since the last negative TB test. This DOES NOT mean the person has tuberculosis disease. Over a lifetime, a person testing positive has approximately a 10-15% chance of developing the active contagious form of the disease.

If a person has been exposed to someone with active TB, it usually takes approximately three months for a previous negative TB test to "seroconvert" to a positive test. For those base personnel who have been deploying recently and are concerned they may have been exposed to TB, the annual Mantoux test conducted (in conjunction with the flu shot) in October and November will give enough time for an immune response to develop. There is virtually no chance of spreading the disease (even if you have a positive TB test) if you do not exhibit signs of the active disease. If personnel are tested too soon after exposure, there is a higher chance of a false negative test.

If any one has any questions or concerns regarding annual, mandatory TB testing, possible exposure to the disease, or think they may be exhibiting some of the signs of tuberculosis disease, please call the medical squadron at Ext. 2340.

Recruiter Rap

OUR RECRUITING TEAM - 1-800-257-9368

by MSgt Shannon M. Tolley

Our Newest Members!!!

Give a big NH Welcome to these folks!

AGS

A1C Crystal lawes
A1C Steve Guillet

MDS

Capt Steve Buergin
Capt Stephanie Riley

CES

SSgt. Regina Rockwood
SSgt David Dieffenbach
A1C Devon Davis

ARW

SSgt Heidi Waterhouse

SFS

A1C Steven Jameson

MXS

A1C Gregory Lawn

LS

SrA Peter Jordon
SrA Mike Steer

This Fiscal Year's "Bonus AFSCs"

2S0X1 Inventory Management
2A6X6 Electro/Environmental
1C1X1 Air Traffic Control
2F0X1 Fuels
3E951 Readiness
2E0X1 Ground Radar
2E1X3 Ground Radio
2A5X1 Aircraft Maintenance
2A6X1 Aerospace Propulsion (Jet Engine)
2A6X4 Aircraft Fuel Systems
3E3X1 Structural
3MOX1 Services
3POX1 Security Forces

We also have the following "critical need" positions open....

Flight Surgeon
Optometrist
Flight Surgeon
Chaplain
Aerospace Ground Equipment
Non-Destructive Inspection

Quote of the Month

*"You've got to stand for something or
you will fall for anything"*

-Malcom X

Telephone Systems
Survival Equipment
Navigational Systems
Intrusion Detection Systems
Information Management
Electrical
Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning
Pavements and Grounds
Engineering Assistant
Fire Protection
Medical Administration
Public Health
Medical Service
Medical Laboratory

It's "kick off" for special event time! Your NHANG Recruiting Team will be supporting the following public events in the upcoming months. If you would like to get involved, give us a call!

May 27 - Memorial Day Parade - Epping NH
June 8 - Sanford Me. Airport "Pilot Appreciation Day"
Jun 9 - THE INFAMOUS Market Square Day Portsmouth
Jun ?? - Safety Day Haverhill MA
Of course, there will be many more opportunities to follow!

I personally want to thank those unit members who stepped up to the plate and volunteered their time to be judges in the "SKILLS USA" VICA competition. Those folks that raised their hands were:

Ltc. Jeff Magaw
Maj. Mike Domingue
TSgt. Bob Nicoletos
SSgt. Craig Hersom
SSgt. Ian Cundiff

As you are reading this, 1/2 of the recruiting team will be away at Technical school and one of the 2 left will be awaiting the arrival of her new baby! Now, anyone can work out that percentage.....

**NOW, MORE THEN EVER, WE NEED
YOU TO HELP US HELP YOU!**

Security

continued from Page 1

Sable explains that at Pease, he might work with one other colleague at the front gate. But at Andrews, he took charge of a section of a gate posted with 30 SPs.

Wallace enjoyed rubbing shoulders with FBI and Secret Service agents, as well as a host of famous personalities including the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders and author Tom Clancy.

"We were doing the search pit area when a USO bus came in," he remembers. "On the bus were Bo Derek, Wayne Newton and Jessica Simpson. We actually talked with them. They were very nice people."

Back home, with no end in sight of their current tours and public perception that the war abroad is winding down, Capt. Hamilton sees his mission clearly.

"The troops are being challenged now," he says, "but we have to maintain their focus on the mission. We are working hard to keep our people from becoming complacent because we are the largest activated group."

"We try to keep them challenged with training," adds Chief Long. "We try to make the most of the time we have. We could go OCONUS some day. We don't know. But we have to be prepared if we do."

Menu

**For the May Menu,
dial 430-3291 and
press 6**

Are you interested in becoming a teacher?

"As members of the military you protected our nation in war and led the world in peace. As you prepare to end your service, I ask you to consider another challenge; teaching in America's classrooms. Join the Troops to Teachers program for your future; and for our nation's future."

First Lady Laura Bush



President Bush signed legislation on 8 Jan 02 that appropriated \$18M to provide financial assistance to help eligible individuals pay for teacher certification programs or to accept employment as a teacher in a "high-needs" school.

One of the most significant changes to the eligibility criteria is extending financial assistance to members of the Guard with at least 10 years of service who agree to an additional three years of service. Active duty and Guard soldiers who have 20 years of service are eligible.

For more information, visit the DANTES website <http://voled.doded.mil> (DANTES) and click on Troops to Teachers.

Do you smoke to cope?

by TSgt. Robert Kebler, Health Promotions.

Smokers often claim that smoking helps them to relax and cope with tension. Nicotine actually causes blood pressure to rise and, when combined with stressful events, triggers physical stress, increasing the demand on your heart.

Nicotine in your blood stream chronically stresses your nervous system. Quitting smoking might initially be stressful and involve new ways of coping. But the absence of nicotine in your blood stream may be the best stress reliever of all once you're beyond the withdrawal period.

Still Smoking?

You CAN quit with a little help . . .

- * Join a smoking cessation group
- * Ask your health care provider for help; discuss nicotine replacement options (gum, patches, nose spray) or antidepressants for smoking cessation.
- * Explore alternative therapies like acupuncture, acupressure and hypnosis.
- * Talk to your provider about potential weight gain if this is an issue for you.
- * Contact your local chapter of the American Lung Association, or the American Cancer Society (800-227-2345) for more quit tips.
- * And don't be discouraged if you fail, because quitting usually requires 3 or 4 attempts. Don't quit quitting! Source: Body Bulletin, January 2000, Vol. 1, No. 1

*If you have any questions or would like help on smoking cessation, contact your Health Promotion team @ 2340 or 2471

Promotions

To Senior Ariman

Angela Skinner	SVF
Brian D. Wheeler	AGS
Adam L. Hart	AGS

To Staff Sergeant

Allen T. Manley	LG
Robert L. Rojek	SVF
Jodi L. Bragdon	LG

To Technical Sergeant

Michael F. Krall	CMF
Stephen J. Shea	SFS
Dale H. Snowdon Jr.	SFS
Darrin P. Sargent	SFS
Thomas Harrington	CMF
Gerard Steimle	AGS

To Master Sergeant

Wayne H. Merritt	ARS
Frederick K. Balas	CMF
Diane Kaczmarczyk	ARW

To Major

Tracy L. Shattuck	ARW
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Tricare

continued from page 8

For more information about medical care, dental care and other benefits for reservists, members of the National Guard and their eligible family members, please visit the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/. For details about TRICARE Prime, Extra or Standard, please visit the TRICARE Web site at

www.tricare.osd.mil. For more information about the TRICARE Dental Program, visit the TRICARE Dental Program Web site at **www.ucci.com/tdp/tdp.html**.

*See also:

TRICARE Eligibility Fact Sheet
TRICARE: The Basics Fact Sheet
The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System Fact Sheet
the TRICARE Dental Program Fact Sheet

Family Emergency Hotline: 1-800-472-0328

TRICARE Reserve Family Demonstration Project

The TRICARE Reserve Family Demonstration Project is effective for health care services received on or after September 14, 2001, and it is nationwide. The demonstration project tests approaches for the Military Health System to ensure timely access to health care during a national crisis for family members of activated reservists and guardsmen, and to maintain clinically appropriate continuity of health care for their family members. Demonstration participants are limited to families of Reserve and National Guard members called to active duty for periods of more than 30 days in support of operations that result from the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, under Executive Order 13223, 10 U.S.C. 12302, 10 U.S.C. 12301(d), or 32 U.S.C. 502(f). Such operations include for example, Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and NOBLE EAGLE.

TRICARE for Reserve/National Guard military sponsor:

Members of the Reserves and the National Guard who are called to active duty become eligible for TRICARE as active duty service members. All care is provided at military treatment facilities or from TRICARE network providers. When the sponsor is no longer on active duty orders, TRICARE eligibility ends; however, care may be received in a military treatment facility for injuries or illnesses incurred while the sponsor was on active duty.

TRICARE for families of activated reservists or members of the National Guard:

Family members of eligible reservists and guardsmen may qualify for the TRICARE Reserve Family Demonstration Project. The demonstration project has three major components that remove potential barriers to health care access and limit out-of-pocket expenses.

Demonstration project components:

1. Waiver of TRICARE Standard and Extra Annual Deductible. Participants who do not or cannot enroll in TRICARE Prime are not required to pay the annual outpatient deductible under Standard or Extra (up to \$300). These beneficiaries are only responsible for their copayment (20 percent for TRICARE Standard and 15 percent for TRICARE Extra). This component covers all outpatient health care received by an eligible participant prior to November 1, 2003.

2. Waiver of the TRICARE Maximum Allowable Charge under TRICARE Standard. The Department of Defense will pay up to 115 percent of the TRICARE maximum allowable charge, less the applicable copayment, for demonstration participants who are covered by TRICARE Standard and receive care from non-participating providers who bill in excess of the TRICARE maximum allowable charge. This

component covers all health care received by an eligible participant prior to November 1, 2003.

3. Waiver of Non-Availability Statement (NAS) Requirement for Non-Emergency Inpatient Care. The requirement to obtain a NAS before non-emergency inpatient care can be paid under TRICARE Standard is waived for all eligible demonstration participants. This component covers all non-emergency inpatient care received by an eligible participant before November 1, 2003.

To ensure family members are eligible for the TRICARE Reserve Family Demonstration Project upon activation, activated Reserve and Guard members should update their information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database by visiting their local military ID card issuing facility. They should bring proper documentation to update their family file, such as a marriage certificate, birth certificate or divorce decree. Incorrect information can result in delayed claims processing, problems with the use of retail pharmacies and the National Mail Order Pharmacy benefit, and other difficulties. Beneficiaries may go online to find the three closest personnel offices or ID card facilities at www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/. For more information about DEERS enrollment, beneficiaries may contact the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office (DSO) Telephone Center at 1-800-538-9552.

Please see "Tricare" page 7

Drill Dates

May 4, 5

June 8, 9

July NO DRILL

August 9, 10, 11

September 14, 15

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
157 ARW/PA
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

TO THE FAMILY OF: